

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, and for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement by return of the Form PTO-1449.

Applicants also note that the Examiner has not indicated that the drawings have been approved by the Official Draftsperson on a Form PTO-948. The Examiner is thus requested to indicate that Applicants' drawings are acceptable in the next Official Action.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-18.

Claims 1-19 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of claims 1-19 in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 1 and 19 under the "nonstatutory doctrine" of obviousness type double patenting over claims 2 and 17 of copending U.S. Application No. 10/652,033. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejection of claims 1 and 19 on these grounds, nevertheless, Applicants have submitted herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in order to expedite prosecution of the present application. Accordingly, it is believed that the provisional rejection of claims 1 and 19 under the "nonstatutory doctrine" of obviousness type double patenting is now moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and an early indication of the allowance of claims 1-19.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

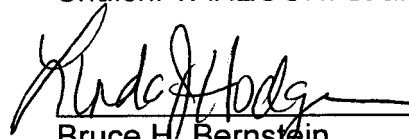
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present response is proper and that none of the references of record, considered alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention as recited in claims 1-19. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Accordingly, consideration of the present response, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of all of the claims in the present application are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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